



LEVINE & MANDELBAUM

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
444 MADISON AVENUE
35TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

ALAN H. LEVINE
alan.levine@levman.com

HOWARD F. MANDELBAUM
howard.mandelbaum@levman.com

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

TELEPHONE: 212-588-9800

FAX: 212-588-0780

email: mail@levman.com

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, February 9, 2005.

Dated: February 9, 2005

Howard F. Mandelbaum

NO FEE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/508,823
Method and Device for Assembling a Blister Sheet and a
Linerboard
Pasternicki
ur Ref: MART0830US

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing are an Information Disclosure Statement with form PTO/SB/08A, and 3 cited references.

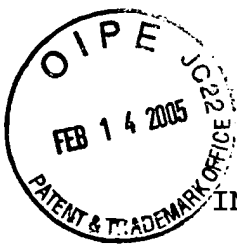
It is requested that the enclosed self-addressed postcard be stamped with the official dating stamp of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and returned. If the enclosed papers are considered incomplete in any way, it is also requested that the undersigned be advised by collect telephone call to (212) 239-4162 immediately upon receipt of this correspondence.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard F. Mandelbaum

Reg. No. 27,519

HFM/mic
enc.



DT03 Rec'd PCT TO 14 FEB 2005

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Pasternicki

For: Method and Device for Assembling a Blister Sheet and a
Linerboard

Serial No.: 10/508,823

Filed: 9/23/2004

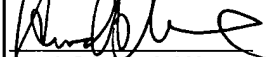
Examiner:

Group Art Unit:

Attorney Docket No.: MART0830US

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Howard F. Mandelbaum



Dated: February 9, 2005.

Levine & Mandelbaum
444 Madison Avenue, 35th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) 588-9800

February 9, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant wishes to call to the attention of the Examiner the following prior art. Copies of the references are enclosed as is a completed form PTO/SB/08A.

No translation is available for French Patent N° 1 343 517. This patent is directed to a direct shaping of some kind of blister sheet on a group of products.

No translation is available for Swiss Patent N° 261 306. This patent is believed to be no more relevant than French Patent N° 1 343 517. This patent is also directed to a direct shaping of some kind of blister sheet on a group of products. The Swiss Patent merely adds the provision of a perforated linerboard which is intended to surround each blister. According to the teachings of this document, the linerboard is deposited on the blister sheet before the latter is shaped and is used as an intermediate layer between a shaping tool and the blister sheet during the shaping thereof.

The instant Patent Application is not directed to the manufacturing of blisters. That is, it is not concerned with the conditioning of blister sheets which have been shaped and closed on one or several product(s).

U.S. Patent No. 5,542,235 is directed to the same problem as the instant application insofar as it discloses the positioning of a linerboard K on a pre-existing, i.e. already shaped, blister sheet B.

However, the teachings of the instant application strongly differ from the teachings of the '235 patent. According to the '235 patent, linerboards are deposited and positioned on the blister sheets before the blister sheets are separated from one another, i.e. on a continuous strip of blister sheets which progresses step by step (lines 55 and 56 of column 2, lines 39-41 of column 5,

paragraph a of claims 1 and 9 and first paragraph of claim 13 with respect to the treatment of a continuous strip of blister sheets; lines 1620 and 49-52 of column 4, paragraphs c and f of claims 1 and 9 and fourth paragraph of claim 13 with respect to the progression step by step). The division of the strip into individual blister sheets occurs in this case after the linerboards have been positioned (lines 63-66 of column 5). The '235 patent recites the possibility of cutting the strip longitudinally before the linerboards are deposited thereon, but this does not individualize the blister sheets (paragraph spanning columns 6 and 7).

Unlike the cited art, the method and apparatus claimed in independent claims 1 and 11 and their subclaims are directed to the treatment of individual blister sheets, which progress continuously. The French and Swiss Patents include no teaching which would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the method and apparatus of the '235 patent accordingly. The prior art patents are not concerned with a continuous treatment, and their treatment does not apply to a blister sheet after it has been shaped.

Applicant's treatment of individual blister sheets enables two linerboards to be joined to blister sheets, the contents of which are different, either alternatively (a respective linerboard for successive blister sheets having different contents) or

simultaneously (several blister sheets, having different contents, together with a single linerboard), by way of an adaptation of stations 57 and 58, while the method and machine disclosed in the '235 patent is only able to associate linerboards with blister sheets which are bound together in the continuous strip, i.e. with identical blister sheets having the same content.

Applicant's continuous treatment allows for higher rates of production than a step by step treatment, and causes less wear to the machine components, and less noise.

From the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references affects the claims in the instant application.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Howard F. Mandelbaum', written over a horizontal line.

Howard F. Mandelbaum
Registration No. 27,519
Attorney for Applicant

HFM:cnt
enc.

